



CITY OF HOUSTON

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NOTICE SCHOOL BUS OPERATORS August 9, 2005

There have been some significant changes to those sections of Chapter 46 pertaining to the regulation of School Vehicles in the City of Houston. These changes will allow the City of Houston to continue to regulate those school vehicles that are **less than 16 passengers**. All larger capacity school vehicles will continue to be regulated by the state.

I. Section 46-292 School Vehicle Insurance: All school vehicles regulated by the City of Houston will now be required to have liability insurance meeting all the requirements (\$500,000) of Chapter 643 of the Texas Transportation Code. The proof of insurance must be provided on the City of Houston insurance filing form. The new insurance filing form will be available by the time you have received this letter.

II. Section 46-287 (b) School Vehicle Drivers: There are three basic changes for drivers.

1. Once every 5 (five) years each driver will be required to have a Texas Department of Public Safety and FBI criminal history check. This will require the applicant to provide two money orders (\$15.00 and \$24.00) to cover the cost of those fees imposed by the State Of Texas and FBI. The driver will complete an application and then submit him/herself to the Houston Police Department @ 1200 Travis Identification Division 10th floor to be fingerprinted. The criminal background check will take 10-15 days.
2. Each driver will be required to provide on a form provided by the Director proof that a duly licensed physician has examined him/her and that the person has no disability or ailment that would prevent them from safely operating a school vehicle.
3. Each driver will be required to provide evidence he/she has passed a drug screening test within the 30 day period preceding the date of the filing of the application.

Before a person can be approved to drive a school vehicle all three of the above steps must be completed.

For the medical examination you may use your personal physician or any other licensed physician. It is very important that the physician sign the form at the bottom attesting to the person's ability to operate a school vehicle.

For the drug test, the Transportation Division can provide you with a list of drug testing facilities or you may go to one of your choosing. The required drug screen is a 5-panel drug test which means your driver will be screened for Marijuana, Opium, Cocaine, Amphetamines, and PCP. A positive result on any one or more of these drugs will result in not being approved to drive a school vehicle.

The ten panel DOT drug test will be acceptable as long as it was done in the 30 day period preceding the application.

A copy of the ordinance is also available to permit holders.

If you have any questions concerning these matters, you may call Dianca Santos @ 281-233-7840 or Blanton Daniels @ 281-233-7885.